

ESPRIT ORCHESTRA

2015-2016 Season

Alex Pauk, Founding Music Director & Conductor

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Experience Esprit

October 4, 2015 – *Con Brio*

November 15, 2015 – *Play*

January 24, 2016 – *Bow to String, Air to Breath*

March 31, 2016 – *La création du monde*

espritorchestra.com

416.815.7887

EXPERIENCE ESPRIT 2015-2016

This season's programming combines music from Iceland, England, France, the U.S.A. and Germany with fine Canadian music. Aiming to bring you music by the most important and influential composers on the international scene, we are featuring works for large orchestra by Thomas Adès on two concerts, as well as performing major pieces by Widmann, Bjarnason and Andrew Norman, the U.S.A.'s fastest-rising young composer.

Our special performance of Darius Milhaud's *La création du monde* (from 1923) will show that musical crossover techniques had an early beginning through the composer's trans-Atlantic cultural blend of Harlem jazz and Western new music.

As a postlude and souvenir of Esprit's recent tour in China, we will play powerful pieces by Schafer and Louie, both of which received tumultuous audience responses on tour. Meanwhile, we will also feature Widmann's *Con Brio*, which has a virtuosic timpani part that its composer described as being 'on the verge of the unplayable'. At the tour performance we gave of the piece, he exclaimed that Esprit's interpretation was exhilarating.

World Premieres have a special place in Esprit programs and this season we've commissioned composers who've previously written highly successful pieces for us - Omar Daniel whose virtuosic new work promises high drama, Douglas Schmidt whose *Sirens* creates a sense of allure and seduction and



Samuel Andreyev whose music is gripping in its combination of intellectual and sensuous elements. My own new work for choir and orchestra, *Soul and Psyche*, delves into the impact of spiritual and psychological forces on humanity.

Our line-up of exceptional music and guest artists will give you a thrilling and enriching listening experience. I invite you to explore and savour the sounds of Esprit.



Alex Pauk

Alex Pauk
Founding Music Director
& Conductor

2015/16 SEASON AT A GLANCE

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October 4 Con Brio

Zosha Di Castri
Jörg Widmann
Omar Daniel
Thomas Adès

Lineage
Con Brio
Sinfonia Concertante (World Premiere)
Dances from Powder Her Face

November 15 Play

Andrew Norman
Thomas Adès
John Rea

Play (Canadian Premiere)
Tevot (Canadian Premiere)
Zefiro torna

January 24 Bow to String, Air to Breath

Daniel Bjarnason
Alexina Louie
Samuel Andreyev
R. Murray Schafer

Bow to String
Imaginary Opera
Movements and Measures (World Premiere)
The Falcon's Trumpet

March 31 La création du monde

Darius Milhaud
Hussein Janmohamed
Douglas Schmidt
Alex Pauk

La création du monde
Nur: Reflections on Light
Sirens (World Premiere)
Soul and Psyche (World Premiere)

PRE-CONCERT CHATS

Enhance your concert experience by attending lively and informative Pre-Concert Chats hosted by Juno Award-winning Canadian composer Alexina Louie. Alexina discusses the origins and intricacies of the works being performed with guest composers and performers featured on each concert. As an audience member, you get an opportunity to engage with our living composers.

All of Esprit's Pre-Concert Chats are free in Koerner Hall immediately before each concert. Get to know the inner workings of creative musical minds.



Photo by Shin Sugino

Con Brio

Zosha Di Castri (Canada)

***Lineage* (2013)**

Jörg Widmann (Germany)

***Con Brio* (2008)**

Omar Daniel (Canada)

***Sinfonia Concertante** (2015)**

Mehetapja Meeli Unistus

(The Husband Killer's Dream)

Thomas Adès (England)

Dances from Powder Her Face (2007)**

Alex Pauk – conductor

*World Premiere - commissioned by Esprit with funding from the Ontario Arts Council

**Performance generously supported with funding from The Koerner Foundation

Concert Sponsor:

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Sunday October 4 2015

8:00pm Concert
7:15pm Pre-Concert Chat
Koerner Hall

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Koerner Hall Box Office
416 408 0208
Mon-Fri 10am - 6pm
Saturday 12pm - 6pm

Esprit's virtuosity shines in Widmann's astonishingly effervescent translation of fast, furious characteristics from Beethoven symphonies into a torrent, at breakneck speed, in his own tonal language. Daniel's thriller, likewise virtuosic, uses ancient Estonian folk idioms and is inspired by the Nordic myth of the husband killer. To keep memories of another generation alive, Di Castri creates sounds of a fictitious culture to re-imagine places and traditions in an ever-evolving narrative. Adès' suite of a witty, high-camp tango, waltz and foxtrot carries listeners into the surreal the world of his 1995 chamber opera *Powder Her Face* which recounts the sex scandal and gossip surrounding the Duchess of Argyll in mid-20th century British aristocracy.

Play

Andrew Norman (U.S.A.)

Thomas Adès (England)

John Rea (Canada)

***Play** (2014)**

Tevot (2007)**

***Zefiro torna* (Zephyr Returns) (1994)**

Alex Pauk – conductor

*Canadian Premiere

**Canadian Premiere generously supported with funding from The Koerner Foundation

Concert Sponsor: **Anonymous**

Sunday November 15 2015

8:00pm Concert
7:15pm Pre-Concert Chat
Koerner Hall

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Rea's Zephyr, a gentle wind relieving us from storm and stress, takes listeners to sublime destinations. Adès' one-movement symphony, with its astonishing, subtly-layered orchestral sonorities, draws inspiration from the word Tevot which means bars of music in Hebrew and also, in the Bible, is the ark of Noah and the cradle in which the baby Moses is carried on the river. Norman, today's fastest-rising young American composer, in his kaleidoscopic 45-minute, three-movement work (*Levels 1, 2 & 3*), encompasses various meanings of play – some light-hearted, some sinister, with musical ideas furiously ricocheting off one another.

Bow to String, Air to Breath

Daniel Bjarnason (Iceland)

***Bow to String* (2010)**

solo cello and ensemble version (2012)

Alexina Louie (Canada)

***Imaginary Opera* (2004)**

Samuel Andreyev (Canada)

***Movements and Measures** (2015)**

R. Murray Schafer (Canada)

***The Falcon's Trumpet* (1995)**

for trumpet and orchestra

Alex Pauk – conductor

Bryan Cheng – cello

Robert Venables – trumpet

*World Premiere – commissioned by Esprit with generous support from The Koerner Foundation

Concert Sponsor: **The Max Clarkson Family Foundation**



Sunday January 24 2016

8:00pm Concert
7:15pm Pre-Concert Chat
Koerner Hall

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416 408 0208
Mon-Fri 10am – 6pm
Saturday 12pm – 6pm

Music of both furious energy and haunting beauty, Bjarnason's piece, through its three movements, moves from loud to quiet, from earthly to ethereal. Louie's imagined ghost opera integrates Eastern and Western musical characteristics to portray dramatic, emotional and mysterious events ranging from ephemeral wisps to flashy, intense explosions of sound. Andreyev has created a work of strong rhythmic character and unusual laminates of timbre. Schafer's trumpet concerto, evoking wind, clouds and sky with birds tracing arcs, aims to catch the spacious resonance of a trumpet playing across a lake at dawn or sunset causing the surrounding forest to echo and vibrate.

La création du monde

Darius Milhaud (France/U.S.A.)

Hussein Janmohamed (Canada)

Douglas Schmidt (Canada)

Alex Pauk (Canada)

Alex Pauk – conductor

The Elmer Iseler Singers

Lydia Adams – guest conductor

***La création du monde* (1923)**

***Nur: Reflections on Light* (2014)
for choir**

***Sirens** (2016)**

Soul and Psyche (2016)
for choir and orchestra**

*World Premiere – commissioned by Esprit with generous support from The Koerner Foundation

**World Premiere – commissioned by The Koerner Foundation through The Elmer Iseler Singers



Thursday March 31 2016

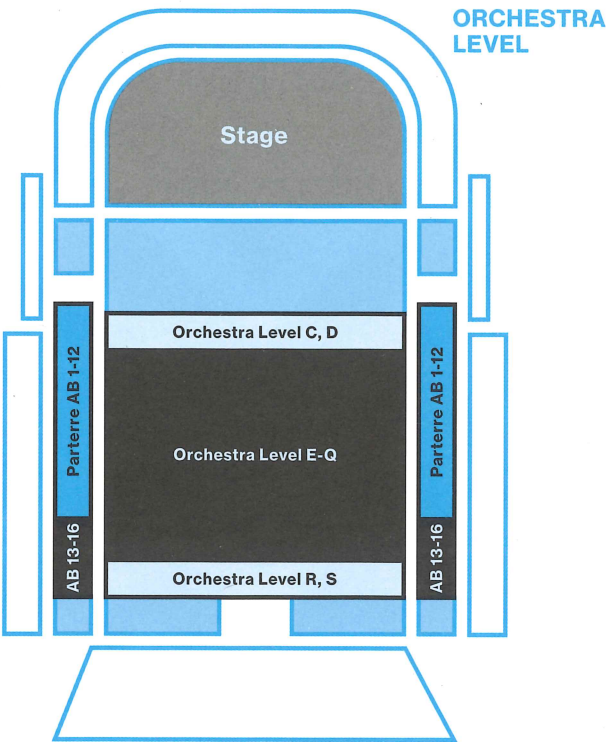
8:00pm Concert
7:15pm Pre-Concert Chat
Koerner Hall

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Saturday 12pm – 6pm

Milhaud's dance score, inventively blending Harlem jazz with cutting-edge Western classical music, helped fuel the early 1920s Parisian rage for African and Afro-American art, fashion, dance and music. Janmohamed's work, in the form of miniatures, interweaves melodies from Ismaili Muslim devotional literature, quranic recitation and Indian ragas. Sirens, with their enchanting music and voices as their fatal weapons, appear in the mythologies of many cultures and provide scenarios for Schmidt's alluring new work. Drawing from a rich reservoir of myths, rituals and sacred systems, Pauk brings choir and orchestra together to express a powerful range of humanistic and spiritual themes.




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Box Office Hours:

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DONATE

Did you know that ticket sales cover only 10% of Esprit's programming costs?

When you make a donation to Esprit, you directly impact the future of Canadian contemporary music. Donations help us continue bringing new music to life by supporting Canadian composers and premiering their music. Your financial support is vital to our success every season.

Here are some of the ways your donation can be used:

- **Education and Outreach programming.** In addition to our four-concert subscription series, Esprit reaches out to the community through various education and outreach programs. Our *Creative Sparks* program puts Esprit composers and performers together with music students to mentor them in the writing and performance of their own compositions.
- **Sponsor-a-Student Program.** Give the gift of music! Enable students to attend our performances by purchasing a subscription on their behalf. Esprit will distribute free tickets to students who would otherwise be unable to attend our concerts.
- **General Operations.** Donations to our general operations fund enable us to keep commissioning Canadian composers and present high energy, thrilling performances.

How do I donate?

- **By cheque** payable to Esprit Orchestra
(mailed to 511-174 Spadina Avenue, Toronto ON, M5T 2C2)
- **Online** through canadahelps.org



We will issue tax receipts for all donations when provided with contact information.

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ESPRIT ORCHESTRA

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